

Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: John Rebhorn et al.

Serial No.: 09/781,582

Filed: February 12, 2001

Docket No.: 5515USA

Title: PORTABLE, SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARTMENT CONTAINER AND
METHOD FOR SEPARATELY STORING AND DISPENSING TWO CONSUMABLE PRODUCTS,
ESPECIALLY CEREAL AND MILK

the exterior section of the spout internal surface having a radius differing from a radius of the exterior section of the mouth internal surface.

2. The container of claim 1, wherein the first and second compartments each include a body portion having an exterior surface and an interior surface, the interior surfaces abutting each other upon final assembly.
3. The container of claim 2, wherein the respective interior surfaces are relatively planar.
4. The container of claim 1, wherein the first compartment includes a body portion, a neck, and the spout, the neck tapering in outer dimension from the body portion to the spout.
5. The container of claim 4, wherein the body portion of the first compartment defines an interior surface and an exterior surface, and further wherein the spout is substantially transversely aligned with the interior surface and substantially transversely offset from the exterior surface.
6. The container of claim 4, wherein the exterior surface of the first compartment body portion is arcuate in transverse cross-section, defining a maximum diameter, the spout being substantially centered relative to the maximum diameter.
7. The container of claim 1, wherein the second compartment includes a body portion, a neck, and the mouth, the neck tapering in outer dimension from the body portion to the mouth.
8. The container of claim 7, wherein the body portion of the second compartment defines an interior surface and an exterior surface, and further wherein the mouth is substantially transversely aligned with the interior surface and substantially transversely offset from the exterior surface.

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9. The container of claim 7, wherein the exterior surface of the second compartment body portion is arcuate in transverse cross-section, defining a maximum diameter, the mouth being substantially transversely centered relative to the maximum diameter.
10. The container of claim 1, wherein the mouth is configured to wrap about a portion of the spout upon final assembly.
11. The container of claim 10, wherein a portion of the mouth is concave in transverse cross-section for wrapping about a portion of the spout.
12. The container of claim 11, wherein a portion of the spout is convex in transverse cross-section, corresponding with the concave portion of the mouth.
13. The container of claim 1, wherein upon final assembly, respective bottoms of the first and second compartments are substantially aligned, and the spout extends to a height less than a height of the mouth.
14. The container of claim 1, further comprising:
a film wrapped about the first and second compartments to secure the first compartment to the second compartment.
15. The container of claim 1, further comprising:
a membrane secured across the passage defined by the spout to seal the first compartment.
16. The container of claim 1, further comprising:
a cap selectively secured to the mouth.
17. The container of claim 16, wherein the cap selectively encompasses the mouth and the spout.

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18. The container of claim 1, wherein the first compartment contains milk and the second compartment contains cereal.

19. A portable, single-use packaged good article comprising:
a first compartment tapering at an upper portion thereof to form a spout having a curved, convex interior wall;
a first consumable product contained within the first compartment;
a second compartment formed separate of the first compartment and tapering at an upper portion thereof to form a mouth having a curved, concave interior wall;
a second consumable product contained within the second compartment;
wherein the first and second compartments are assembled to one another in a side-by-side fashion such that the mouth abuts the spout, the first consumable product being contained separate from the second consumable product.

20. The packaged good article of claim 19, wherein the first consumable product is a liquid consumable product and the second consumable product is a dry consumable product.

21. The packaged good article of claim 20, wherein the liquid consumable product is milk and the dry consumable product is cereal.

22. (Twice Amended) A portable, single-use container for separately containing a first and a second consumable product, the container comprising:

- a first compartment for containing a first consumable product;
- a second compartment for containing a second consumable product, the first and second compartments being secured to one another in a side-by-side fashion and combining to define a body of the container;
- a first compartment opening for dispensing a first consumable product from the first compartment, the first compartment opening having a transverse cross-sectional area less than a maximum transverse cross-sectional area of the first

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compartment, wherein the first compartment opening is defined by a spout integrally formed as one piece with the first compartment; and

a second compartment opening for dispensing a second consumable product from the second compartment, the second compartment opening including a transverse concave section and having a transverse cross-sectional area less than a maximum transverse cross-sectional area of the second compartment, the transverse cross-sectional area of the second compartment opening being greater than the transverse cross-sectional area of the first compartment opening;

wherein at least one of the first and second compartment openings is substantially centered relative to the body.

23. The container of claim 22, wherein the first and second compartment openings are positioned side-by-side upon final assembly to define a pour region for the container, the pour region having a central axis substantially aligned with a central axis of the body.

24. The container of claim 23, wherein the body and the pour region are substantially circular in transverse cross-section.

25. The container of claim 22, wherein the first and second compartment openings are defined by respective side walls configured such that a portion of the second compartment opening side wall wraps about a portion of the first compartment opening side wall.

26. The container of claim 25, wherein the concave section is configured to receive a corresponding convex section of the first compartment opening side wall.

27. (Cancelled)

28. The container of claim 27, wherein the second compartment includes an integrally formed mouth defining the second compartment opening.

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29. The container of claim 28, wherein upon final assembly, respective bottoms of the first and second compartments are substantially aligned, and the spout extends to a height less than a height of the mouth.
30. The container of claim 22, further comprising:
a film wrapped about the first and second compartments to secure the first compartment to the second compartment.
31. The container of claim 22, further comprising:
a film secured across the first compartment opening for sealing the first compartment.
32. The container of claim 22, further comprising:
a cap selectively secured over the second compartment opening.
33. The container of claim 32, wherein the cap selectively encompasses the first and second compartment openings.
34. The container of claim 22, wherein the first compartment contains milk and the second compartment contains cereal.
35. (Twice Amended) A portable, single-use packaged good article comprising:
a first compartment;
a first consumable product contained within the first compartment;
a second compartment secured to the first compartment in side-by-side fashion, the first and second compartments combining to define a container body;
a second consumable product contained within the second compartment;
a first compartment opening for dispensing the first consumable product from the first compartment, the first compartment opening having a transverse cross-sectional area less than a maximum transverse cross-sectional area of the first

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compartment, wherein the first compartment opening is defined by a spout integrally formed as one piece with the first compartment; and
a second compartment opening for dispensing the second consumable product from the second compartment, the second compartment opening having a transverse cross-sectional area less than a maximum transverse cross-sectional of the second compartment, the transverse cross-sectional area of the second compartment opening being at least three times greater than the transverse cross-sectional area of the first compartment opening;
wherein at least one of the first and second compartment openings is substantially centered relative to the container body.

36 The packaged good article of claim 35, wherein the first consumable product is a liquid consumable product and the second consumable product is a dry consumable product.

37. The packaged good article of claim 36, wherein the liquid consumable product is milk and the dry consumable product is cereal.

38. A method of manufacturing a portable, single-use container separately containing two consumable products, the method comprising:

providing a first compartment tapering at an upper portion thereof to form a spout;
providing a second compartment tapering at an upper portion thereof to form a mouth,
the first and second compartment being configured for assembly to one another in a side-by-side fashion;
dispensing a first consumable product into the first compartment;
covering the spout separate of the mouth with a seal that seals the first consumable product within the first compartment;
dispensing a second consumable product into the second compartment;
assembling the first and second compartments to one another; and
covering the mouth and the seal with a cover;
wherein upon final assembly, the mouth abuts the spout.

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39. The method of claim 38, wherein the second compartment is assembled to the first compartment before dispensing the second consumable product.
40. The method of claim 38, wherein the second compartment is assembled to the first compartment after dispensing the second consumable product.
41. The method of claim 38, further comprising:
 aseptically sterilizing the first compartment before dispensing the first consumable product.
42. The method of claim 38, wherein the first consumable product is a liquid consumable product and the second consumable product is a dry consumable product.
43. The method of claim 42, wherein the liquid consumable product is milk and further wherein dispensing milk occurs in an aseptically sterilized environment.
44. The method of claim 38, wherein assembly of the first and second compartments includes:
 wrapping a shrink label about the first and second compartments.
45. The method of claim 38, wherein covering the second compartment includes selectively securing a cap over the mouth and the spout.
46. The method of claim 38, wherein the spout and the mouth combine to define a pour region, and further wherein assembling the first and second compartments includes substantially centering the pour region relative to a remainder of the container.
47. The container of claim 1, wherein the radius of the exterior section of the spout internal surface is less than the radius of the exterior section of the mouth internal surface.

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48. The container of claim 16, wherein the mouth defines an opening, and further wherein the container is adapted to require complete removal of the cap from the mouth to expose the opening.

49. The container of claim 19, wherein the spout defines a circle in transverse cross-section and the mouth defines a non-circle in transverse cross-section.

50. The container of claim 35, wherein the transverse cross-sectional area of the second compartment opening is at least four times greater than the transverse cross-sectional area of the first compartment opening.

51. The container of claim 50, wherein the transverse cross-sectional area of the second compartment opening is at least five times greater than the transverse cross-sectional area of the first compartment opening.